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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 CHENNAI 001976

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [PTER](#) [IN](#)

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENCE DAY TERROR: MAOISTS SLAUGHTER  
LEGISLATOR, EIGHT OTHERS

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: On Indian Independence Day, Andhra Pradesh Maoists gunned down a senior Congress legislator and eight others at a public function in broad daylight. The biggest Maoist attack since the peace process broke down in January has sent shockwaves among politicians who are getting ready to campaign for the September Municipal elections. An insider journalist contact believes that the government will soon re-impose its ban on Maoists and go for tough police action in the wake of the incident. If that happens, more tit for tat violence is likely. END SUMMARY

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DAYLIGHT ATTACK STUNS ANDHRA PRADESH  
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2. (SBU) A suspected action team of the Communist Party of India (Maoist) shot dead 75-year-old Congress legislator Narsi Reddy, his son Venkateswara Reddy, Municipal Commissioner Rammohan and six others on August 15. The legislator was opening a road in a Dalit colony in Narayanpet in Mahaboobnagar district, near the border with Karnataka, as part of the Independence Day celebrations when two terrorists sprayed bullets from AK 47 rifles. Deputy Inspector General in charge of intelligence operations against Maoists, Thirumal Rao, told Post that about five Maoist militants, including one female, participated in the attack. According to Rao, vehicle-checking police spotted the suspects 130 kilometers from the attack site on motorcycles, but were "unable" to arrest them. He did not elaborate.

3. (U) Apart from the nine who died, 17 suffered injuries in the incident, the biggest Maoist attack since the AP Congress government's peace process broke down in January.

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LEGISLATOR IGNORED MAOIST WARNING  
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4. (SBU) Regional English Daily "The Deccan Herald" reported that the Maoists had recently declared that they would kill Reddy, his daughter Aruna, also a legislator, and son-in-law Bharat Simha Reddy, a former MLA, alleging that they were responsible for the sale of illicit liquor in the district. The Speaker of the AP Assembly, however, described Narsi Reddy as "a personification of discipline and decorum," and the Chief Minister Y.S. Rajashekhara Reddy described him as "a gentleman to the core and one of the most respected leaders."

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CHIEF MINISTER SEES CHANGE IN MAOIST STYLE  
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5. (SBU) Chief Minister Reddy told the Press in Hyderabad that since the Peoples' War Naxalite group merged with the Maoist Communist Center (MCC) in October 2004, their style of operations has changed. "Earlier they were killing only their targets; now they are opening fire indiscriminately against innocent civilians", he said. "This is like the mindless violence you see in Bihar, he told the media." Journalists recalled that in April, Maoists triggered a claymore mine in a crowded place in their attempt on the life of Prakasam, District Police Chief Mahesh Chandra Laddha.

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AP GOVERNMENT MAY REIMPOSE BAN; TOUGHEN ITS STAND  
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6. (SBU) After presiding over an emergency meeting with senior police officials, Chief Minister Y.S. Rajashekhara Reddy told journalists that the government was seriously considering re-imposing the ban on Maoists and going in hot pursuit after the armed squads. The Hindu senior Correspondent Sreenivasa Reddy, covering Maoist militancy for

several years, told post that the state government would soon take the decision to re-impose the ban on Maoists. "Not that the ban would cause any major setback to the Maoists; it would help project the Maoists as persona non grata, thereby giving a psychological edge to the police in their operations," he said. He ruled out the chance of the government going soft on the Maoists again in view of the upcoming municipal elections.

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BACK TO THE DAYS OF BLOODY ENCOUNTERS?  
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17. (SBU) COMMENT: The symbolic significance of the Independence day terror is not lost on the AP politicians who are worried about carrying out their public contact programs. Campaigning in the upcoming Municipal elections will be tough. Some Telangana politicians, particularly those of the Telangana Rashtra Samithy, believe that the July 1 killing of Naxalite (Janashakti) leader Riyaz started off the present chain of bloody encounters. Reverting to the ban and tough police action against the Maoists could result in more bloody incidents, at least in the near term. END COMMENT

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